



Overview of Outcomes Assessment

What is Outcomes Assessment?

Outcomes assessment is a systematic process of continuous improvement that involves the collection, analysis, and interpretation of information regarding student learning and the use of that information to modify and improve student learning and teaching at the course, program, and institutional level. Outcomes assessment is a collaborative effort between faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the business community to ensure that Walsh students are meeting the student learning outcomes that have been established by each program and student related departments at Walsh.

Why conduct outcomes assessment?

Outcomes assessment demonstrates to our stakeholders, public policy-makers and regional accreditors that Walsh graduates have successfully attained the learning goals and objectives defined by each program as well as achieving institutional core competencies. In addition, outcomes assessment provides accountability measures to meet the requirements mandated by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC-NCA) (www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org), Walsh's regional accrediting agency. Outcomes assessment also meets accreditation requirements of the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) (www.iacbe.org). Walsh achieved IACBE candidacy for accreditation in 2007. The results of outcomes assessment, along with the changes and improvements are reported annually to IACBE.

What is the value of outcomes assessment?

The information obtained through outcomes assessment is one method used to improve student learning and teaching at the course, program, and institutional level and to ensure continuous quality improvement in all programs. Outcomes assessment also provides the means to improve the overall institutional effectiveness of Walsh College.

Who participates in outcomes assessment?

All or some students may be required to participate in outcomes assessment by completing a survey, sitting for an examination, compiling a portfolio of academic work, or providing other academic indicators. When asked by the College, students are expected to participate in one or more of the evaluative measures. Alumni and various stakeholders are also asked to participate in outcomes assessment to provide further information on the quality of the programs and courses offered at Walsh. All assessment results are confidential and presented anonymously and in aggregate form.

All or some students may be required to take one or more examinations designed to measure the level of achievement in each Core Competency and achievement in their program as a prerequisite to graduation. Unless otherwise specifically stated in an individual program, no minimum score or level of achievement is required for graduation.

How often is outcomes assessment conducted?

Outcomes assessment is an ongoing process that occurs at the course, program and institutional level. A selection of core competencies at the institutional level and a selection of student learning outcomes at the course and program level are chosen on a cyclical basis for assessment. External program reviews occur on a 5 year cycle and are incorporated into program assessment plans. The institutional assessment plan and program assessment plans are evaluated on a cyclical basis and revised as needed to meet the mission of the College and focus of the program.